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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Mortality record of Unalaska and adjacent country for 1900.

DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA, *September 19, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report regarding the mortality of Unalaska for 1900, which is of interest in connection with the fact of the rapid decline of the native population of the Aleutian chain of islands:

Formerly there were 120 villages on the islands with a native population variously estimated at from 1,500 to 2,500.

Now in the same district there are but 10 villages and 1,000 inhabitants, exclusive of whites, of whom 300 are creoles (mixed breeds with Russian and other nationalities) and 700 Aleutes.

Last year Unalaska had 353 inhabitants, 116, or nearly one-third, of whom died. According to data obtained from the Russian priest of the Greek Catholic Church, Rev. B. P. Kashereroff, who has the only mortality records kept in the village, there being no health officer or even physician, 30 deaths were ascribed to "cold," 24 to consumption, 33 to measles, and 7 to old age; 5 were drowned.

The mortality report, arranged according to age, is as follows: Up to 1 year of age, 20 deaths; from 1 to 7 years of age, 24 deaths; from 7 to 10 years of age, 2 deaths; from 10 to 40 years of age, 42 deaths; from 40 to 50 years of age, 20 deaths; from 50 to 60 years of age, 8 deaths. Total, 116.

The remarkable mortality from measles among the natives in Alaska during the past year appears ascribable largely to the bad sanitary environment—some living in baraberas, small mud houses—and lack of precaution against exposure.

On the Kuskokwim and in other sections on the mainland, from one-half to two-thirds of the natives died and many were left unburied in the mud houses where they lived, surviving members immediately deserting the huts, which latter often contain from 1 to 2 dozen natives living regardless of family relations.

As many as half a dozen dead bodies have been seen by prospectors in a single hovel and numerous dead bodies were seen lying about on the ground partly eaten by the foxes.

There are numerous instances of whole villages being deserted, the few surviving natives having a superstition about staying where so many of their number had died.

Whether the measles *per se* was of an especially virulent type, I am

unable to state, as there have been no cases of the disease during the present season in this locality.

From what I have been able to learn, however, the striking mortality record above detailed was due largely to pneumonic complications and want of medical treatment.

Respectfully,

F. J. THORNBURY,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Arrival at Reedy Island Quarantine of vessels from the Danish West Indies.

REEDY ISLAND QUARANTINE,
via Port Penn, Del., September 22, 1901.

SIR: Through the medical officer in command of national quarantine service on Delaware Bay and River, I have the honor to report the arrival at this station on the 17th instant of the British steamship *Drummond*, from St. Thomas via Santiago, with ore; no passengers; bill of health signed by Assistant Surgeon Von Ezdorf.

Respectfully,

T. F. RICHARDSON,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

Arrival at Baltimore of vessels from West Indian and South American ports.

BALTIMORE, MD., *September 28, 1901.*

SIR: I have to report the arrival at this port of the following-named vessels for the week ended to-day: September 24, British steamship *Aldborough*, from Daiquiri, with ore; American bark *Dom Pedro II*, from Rio de Janeiro, with coffee.

Respectfully,

WM. F. STONE,
Collector.

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

Eagle Pass, Tex.—Inspection service.—I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended September 21, 1901:

Date.	Number of persons.	Sanitary condition.	Condition of—		Where from.	Destination.
			Baggage.	Merchandise.		
Sept. 15 (a)	136	Good	Good	Good	Various points in Mexico.	Various points in United States.
Sept. 16 (b)	141	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Sept. 17 (c)	139	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Sept. 18 (d)	150	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Sept. 19 (e)	142	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Sept. 20 (f)	138	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Sept. 21 (g)	140	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.

a Fumigated 200 pieces of soiled Pullman linen.

b Fumigated 198 pieces of Pullman soiled linen.

c Fumigated 195 pieces of Pullman soiled linen.

d Fumigated 215 pieces of Pullman soiled linen.

e Fumigated 202 pieces of Pullman soiled linen.

f Fumigated 195 pieces of Pullman soiled linen.

g Fumigated 210 pieces of Pullman soiled linen.

LEA HUME,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

El Paso, Tex., September 21, 1901—Inspection service.—I have the honor to transmit herewith summary of transactions at this station for the week ended September 21, 1901: Inspection of Mexican Central Railroad passengers, 249; inspection (special) of passengers from City of Mexico, 44; inspection of Rio Grande and Pacific Railroad passengers, 22; inspection of excursionists, 174; inspection of immigrants, 180; disin-